

The City of Wichita City Council at the November 15, 2011 meeting adopted the 2011 National Electrical Code with amendments. Many of the amendments to the Electrical Code clarify the intent of certain 2011 NEC code provisions, or further codify local procedures and/or policies. The most significant amendments are summarized below.

- **Section 19.12.010.** The 2011 NEC is adopted as the basis for the City of Wichita Electrical Code.
- **Section 19.12.010.** The 2011 NEC requires that every 120-volt circuit (except in kitchens, bathrooms and unfinished basements) be protected by an Arc-Fault Circuit Interrupter (AFCI). Currently, Title 19 requires AFCI protection for bedroom circuits only. Both the Board and staff recommend that Wichita continue to require AFCI protection for bedroom circuits only. Before expanding the requirements for AFCI circuit protection, the Board and staff believe this newer technology should be further monitored to ensure its reliability. The Board and staff intend to review this matter closely during the 2014 NEC review cycle.
- **Section 19.12.230.** Language is added to require that residential “through-the-wall” heating units be directly wired to the building wiring. This will provide an extra level of protection to the public. There have been several instances of fires in the last two (2) to three (3) years where the Wichita Fire Department, with input from the Office of Central Inspection, has determined that overheating of the cord and receptacles for heating units with cord-and-plug connections was the likely cause of the fire. Tested and certified hard-wire kits, which are available from manufacturers of through-the-wall heating units, meet the requirement for direct wiring.
- **Section 19.12.193.** Language is added to specify the required locations for lighting outlets in unfinished, future habitable rooms of residential dwellings and in commercial storage units. This amendment will decrease confusion and will provide an added level of safety to the public.
- **Section 19.08.155.** The amended language exempts temporary decorative lighting, replacement of branch circuit over-current devices and communication wiring (except fire alarm wiring) from the requirements for permits and inspections.
- **Section 19.22.105.** New language is added to allow for reciprocity of Wichita elevator technician certifications.
- **Section 19.22.190.** New language is added to clarify that replacement of escalator steps requires a permit and inspections.
- **Section 19.08.150.** This section is amended to increase the electrical permit issuance fee from \$18 to \$25, and to eliminate the \$25 minimum permit fee.
- **Section 19.04.035.** New language is added to require that wiring be brought to current code when wall coverings are removed to the framing members.
- **Section 19.22.096.** The existing exception, which allows elevator mechanic apprentices to work under a certified Master or Journeyman certificate holder, is removed from Section 19.22.095 and incorporated into this new section, which outlines exception criteria in more detail. The amended requirements for elevator apprentices mirror the requirements for other trade apprentices.
- **Section 19.22.100.** The amended language changes the requirement for minimum apprentice field experience (before taking the master level elevator exam) from two (2) years to four (4) years. This mirrors the minimum required field experience for other trade apprentices.